

NATIVE AMERICAN RHYMES

	A	B	C	
D	E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W
	X	Y	Z	

The Native American Alphabet

NativeAmericanRhymes.com

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Native American Alphabet

Long before Europeans came to this hemisphere
The land was settled by native Americans free and clear;
Who had moved across the land without hesitation
Forming wonderful cultures and great civilizations.
Each of these groups or tribes had a name
Which was their identity, their claim to fame.
A fun way to learn about and understand
About some of the native American groups
who shared this land
Is to see how some of their names would fit
With the letters of the alphabet.

A - Abnaki

Who lived in the northeastern United States
In houses called wigwams near a river or lake.

B - Blackfoot

A native American group who received their name
From drying their moccasins with ash found on the plains.

C - Comanche

Whose name means "wide trail"
Which may have also described the land they knew so well.

D - Dakota

Part of a large native American group called the Sioux
Who had leaders such as Red Cloud and Sitting Bull,
Just to name two.

E - Erie

Whose name means, "place of the cat,"
And were called "cat people" for reasons such as that.

F - Flathead

A group who despite their name
Didn't flatten their heads but the name remained.

G – Gros Venture

Whose name in French means “big belly”
Because they couldn’t understand
The Gros Venture’s sign language of rubbing
Their stomachs with their hands.

H – Hopí

Whose name means “peaceful ones”
Whose descendants still live in the land of the sun.

I – Iroquois

A group of native American tribes
Who formed a confederation
Which was the blueprint that our founding fathers used
When forming the government of this nation.

J – Juaneño

Whose name one can clearly see
Reflects the influence on them by Spanish missionaries.

K – Kootenai

Who lived along the Canadian border
Making them the northern-most member
Of the Plateau people’s order

L – Luiseño

Another of the “mission people”
Who accepted the ways of the Spanish
Who brought with them churches and steeples.

M - Makah

Who lived on the Pacific Northwest coast
And were some of the best whale hunters
That the area could boast.

N - Navajo

Who were named "people of the big fields"
By the Spanish who saw the vast amounts
Of corn the Navajo fields did yield.

O - Ottawa

Whose name means to trade
Which is how they gained fame
With every transaction they made.

P - Pima

Whose name comes from the phrase "I don't know"
Which may have been their response to
Spanish explorers asking for directions to go.

Q - Quapaw

Whose name means "people downstream"
Most probably because they lived
Where the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers team.

R - Rock Creek

Who lived in the Great Basin area of this country
An area known for its contrast of harshness and beauty.

S - Seminoles

Whose name means "runaway"
Probably because they befriended
Slaves who came to their villages to stay.

T - Tlingit

Who were part of the native American groups
Who lived on the coast of the Pacific Northwest,
That had the custom of having elaborate parties
Where the host gave presents to his guests.

U - Ute

Who were a nomadic native American tribe
Living in the Great Basin area
Where few others could survive.

V

There are no native American tribes or groups
That begin with this letter.
So let's go on to the letter "W"
Where I'm sure that we'll do better.

W – Wampanoag

Who befriended the Pilgrims
Extending a helping hand,
But would later become their enemies
As they took more and more of their land.

X

There's no native American group that begins with "X"
Which really seems a shame
Because any group starting with this letter
Would have an excellent name.

Y – Yazoo

A native American group that has an impressive claim
By having a county, city and river
In Mississippi bearing its name.

Z – Zuni

Who lived in adobe villages
That shown like gold in the desert sun,
Inspiring Spanish explorers to believe them
Filled with gold, each and every one.